

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. Shimomura et al. Attorney Docket No.: MEIP127862
Application No.: 10/599,105 Group Art Unit: 2873
Filed: September 19, 2006 Confirmation No.: 4197
Title: PHOTOELECTRIC ENCODER

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants are aware of the information listed in the attached form that may be material to the prosecution of the above-identified patent application.

1. X This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior Application No. 10/804,636, filed March 19, 2004. The references listed on the attached form were submitted to and/or cited by the Patent and Trademark Office in this prior application and, therefore, are not required to be provided in this application.
2. X A concise explanation of the relevance of document Cite Nos. F4, F5, and F7-F9 (which are not in the English language), as presently understood by the individual designated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about their content, is provided in an English abstract appended to each document. In addition, a concise explanation of the relevance of document Cite Nos. F2, F4, and F7-F9 is provided in the enclosed International Search Report.
3. X Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first-class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: October 20, 2006



Victoria S. L. Leek, S.L.L.vas.